

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4321

EO 11652: GDS

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SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: COMPOSITION OF NEW GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED. TRIUMVIRATE MEMBERS WILL CONFER ON MEMBERSHIP OF NEW GOVERNMENT JULY 30 FOLLOWING RETURN OF GENERAL OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO FROM HAVANA. OTELO HAS AGAIN PUT FOOT IN MOUTH WITH REMARKS TO WAITING PRESS. SOCIALISTS HAVE ISSUED "PROPOSAL FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION" WHICH REITERATES CALL FOR "GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL SALVATION" PRESIDED OVER BY AFM PERSONALITY OF NATIONAL PROJECTION AND NON-PARTISAN CHARACTER. DOCUMENT OUTLINES SERIES OF OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS WHICH IT SAYS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. DOCUMENT PLUS PS ECONOMIC PLAN EXPECTED IN NEXT FEW DAYS LAY GROUNDWORK FOR OPPOSITON ALTERNATIVE TO AFM INDECISION AND INCONSISTENCY. END SUMMARY

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1. NEW GOVERNMENT: MEMBERSHIP OF FIFTH PROVISIONAL GOVERN-

MENT HAS STILL NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED. GOVERNMENT COMPOSITION IS EXPECTED TO BE MAIN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION IN MEETING JULY 30 AMONG TRIUMVIRATE MEMBERS COSTA GOMES, VASCO GONCALVES, AND GENERAL OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO. NEW GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED IN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEETING ALSO SCHEDULED FOR JULY 30.

2. OTELO RETURNS: GENERAL OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO RETURNED FROM HAVANA MORNING JULY 30 ABOARD AN AEROFLOT FLIGHT. CROWD OF ABOUT 300, CARRYING PRO-AFM AND PCP BANNERS, WAS ON HAND TO GREET OTELO. WELCOMING COMMITTEE INCLUDED NUMBER OF RC MEMBERS AS WELL AS PCP LEADER CUNHAL. EMBASSY OFFICER AT AIRPORT, HOWEVER, NOTED THAT CROWD LACKED ENTHUSIASM WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS IN PAST.

3. SEVERAL OFF-THE-CUFF RESPONSES TO LOADED QUESTIONS FROM WAITING REPORTERS HAVE AGAIN MADE OTELO A CENTER OF CONTROVERSY. COMMENTING ON HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENT RE POSSIBILITY OF PUTTING COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES IN CAMPO PEQUENO (LISBON'S BULL RING) TO RECEIVE SUMMARY JUSTICE, HE SAID HE WOULD NOW REVISE HIS EARLIER STATEMENT TO SAY "...WE HAVE TO PUT THEM THERE." PUTTING HIS FOOT IN HIS MOUTH STILL FURTHER, HE CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD SAID IN HAVANA THAT THE PS GAVE HOPE TO THE RIGHT AND ADDED THAT "THE PS IS, WITHOUT DOUBT, AT THIS MOMENT THE GREATEST ENEMY OF THE LEFT." COMMENTING ON SPECULATION THAT SOME RC MEMBERS WERE CONSIDERING THE EXILE OF SOARES BECAUSE OF HIS CONDUCT, OTELO SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THE MATTER AND DISCUSS IT WITH BOTH HIS COLLEAGUES AND SOARES.

4. ON EVE OF DEPARTURE FROM HAVANA, OTELO HAD TOLD PRESS HE VIEWED FUTURE ROLE OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AS SIMILAR TO THAT OF AN ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF, I.E. ADVISORY ONLY, WITH DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY CLEARLY IN HANDS OF TRIUMVIRATE. RESPONDING TO SUGGESTION THAT TRIUMVIRATE REFLECTED PRINCIPAL AFM CURRENTS, OTELO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE ENJOYED CONFIDENCE OF FAR LEFT AS WELL AS ELEMENTS OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY. HE DENIED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EXTREME LEFT ON TRIUMVIRATE. HE SAID PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAD COMPLETE CONFIDENCE OF PCP AND MDP/CDE. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE DESCRIBED PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES AS A MODERATING INFLUENCE.

5. PS ISSUES ACTION PLAN: AT SOARES PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 28, PS DISTRIBUTED LENGTHY "PROPOSAL FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION" FOR NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION. TEXT OF DOCUMENT, WHICH IS BEING POUCHED, WAS PRINTED IN FULL IN JULY 29 EDITION OF "JORNAL NOVO." DOCUMENT DESCRIBES CURRENT PLIGHT OF COUNTRY CHARACTERIZED BY DECLINING SUPPORT FOR REVOLUTION, CRISIS

OF AUTHORITY, MOUNTING ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, PROBLEMS IN ANGOLA AND AZORES, AND ACCENTUATED BY PCP AND FAR LEFT "ADVENTURISM." WAY OUT OF CURRENT DIFFICULTIES, DOCUMENTS SUGGESTS, IS THROUGH FORMATION OF "GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL ALVATION." SUCH GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE PRESIDED OVER BY AFM PERSONALITY. INDIVIDUAL SHOULD BE SOMEONE OF NATIONAL PROJECTION AND RECOGNIZED NON-PARTISAN CHARACTER; PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES SPECIFICALLY RULED OUT. DOCUMENT PROPOSED SERIES OF STEPS, ESSENTIAL TO NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY. THEY INCLUDE:

- ASSURING PLURALISM IN COMMUNICATIONS FIELD THROUGH ADVISORY COUNCILS MADE UP OF PARTY REPRESENTATION SELECTED ON PROPORTIONAL BASIS. COUNCILS WOULD HAVE AUTHORITY TO CORRECT ERRONEOUS STATEMENTS APPEARING IN MEDIA. MEDIA TIME AND SPACE WOULD BE SET ASIDE FOR PARTY COMMENTARY. "REPUBLICA" AND RADIO RENASCENCA WOULD BE RETURNED TO RIGHTFUL OWNERS.
- FIXING ONE-MONTH TIME LIMIT FOR PROCESSING ALL CIVIL AND MILITARY PRISONERS. THOSE NOT PROCESSED WITHIN TIME LIMIT, WITH EXCEPTION OF EX-PIDE/DGS MEMBERS, WOULD BE RELEASED.
- PUBLIC INVESTIGATION OF COMMISSION FOR EXTINCTION AND EX-PIDE/DGS.
- REAFFIRMING AUTHORITY OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.
- AFFIRMING PRINCIPLE THAT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS AND WORKERS' COMMISSIONS DO NOT CONSTITUTE PARALLEL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE; VOTES IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE BY SECRET BALLOT.
- TAKING MEASURES NECESSARY TO ELIMINATE "ARMED MILITIAS."
- ENDING PARTISAN ACTIVITIES OF INTERSINDICAL.
- REPLACING THOSE CIVIL GOVERNORS AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCILS WHICH ARE NOT POLITICALLY REPRESENTATIVE.
- TAKING STEPS TO ENSURE NON-PARTISAN CHARACTER OF KEY GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, E.G. LABOR, COMMUNICATIONS, AND EDUCATION.

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5. MORE ANTI-LEFT VIOLENCE: OFFICES OF COMMUNIST ELECTORAL FRONT (FEC-ML) IN SAO JOAO DA MADEIRA IN DISTRICT OF AVEIRO WERE SACKED AND CONTENTS BURNED BY CROWD ON JULY 29. SUBSEQUENT ATTEMPT TO ASSAULT LOCAL PCP OFFICERS WAS THWARTED BY ARRIVAL OF SOLDIERS FROM AVEIRO.

6. COMMENT: RC "MODERATES," DESPITE THEIR BOYCOTT OF JULY 25 AFM ASSEMBLY SESSION, HAVE NOT RESIGNED FROM RC. THERE IS STILL A SLIM POSSIBILITY -- VERY SLIM INDEED WE THINK -- THAT MODERATES COULD STILL MOUNT A CHALLENGE TO GONCALVES OVER THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THE AFM ASSEMBLY HOWEVER, HAS RELEGATED THE RC TO A CONSULTATIVE ROLE, AND IF THAT DECISION IS RESPECTED THE RC WOULD LACK AUTHORITY TO PASS ON MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

SHOULD MODERATES ATTEMPT TO RAISE THE ISSUE, OTELO'S RESPONSE
WOULD BE PIVOTAL. WITHOUT HIS SUPPORT, WHICH AT THIS POINT
SEEMS UNLIKELY, PROSPECTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL EFFORT BY RC MODERATES
ARE PRACTICALLY NIL.

7. PUBLICATION BY PS OF THE "PROPOSAL FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION"
AND PS ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN EXPECTED SHORTLY, PRESENTS
CLEAR AND CONCRETE ALTERNATIVE TO THE INDECISIVE AND OFTEN
INCONSISTENT AFM ATTEMPTS TO DEAL WITH THE URGENT PROBLEMS
FACING NATION.
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